ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Cahaba Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE

UNION CHURCH, HALE COUNTY, ALABAMA,

October 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1867.

OFFICERS:

MODERATOR.....REV. J. S. FORD, *Perry County.*
CLERK.....PROF. A. B. GOODHUE, *Marion, Ala.*

ATLANTA, GA.:
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MINUTES.

HALE COUNTY, ALABAMA,
Saturday, Oct. 19—11 o'clock, A.M.

The delegates of the churches composing the Cahaba Association having assembled at the house of worship of the Union Baptist Church, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. J. S. Ford, the regular appointee, Rev. S. R. Freeman, being too unwell to discharge the duty.

In the absence of the Moderator, the Association was called to order by the Clerk, and brother W. N. Wyatt was requested to act as Moderator *pro tem.*

The letters from the churches were then read, and the names of delegates enrolled, as follows:

Union—G. W. Roberts, M. Stringfellow, and J. W. May.

Mt. Pleasant, Hale county—R. Y. Woods and W. A. Bishop.

Siloam—W. N. Wyatt, M. T. Sumner, J. H. Poole, and A. B. Goodhue.

Pine Flat—W. M. McCullough.

Fellowship, Perry county—S. C. Trammill, H. W. Crawford, W. Griffin, and J. B. Poole.

Sardis—S. S. Pool.

Pleasant Hill—H. H. Johnston.

Mt. Pleasant, Perry county—J. S. Ford.

Macedonia—H. C. Holston and A. J. Seale.

Shiloh—I. Thomas and J. M. Heard.

Hepsibah—J. A. Jones.

Newhope—B. G. Sims.

Medlim—J. M. Heard.

Mt. Hebron—J. Holbrook, S. Speed, and N. Roberts.

Mt. Zion—A. J. Kearse and D. Snead.

Hopewell—S. R. Freeman, J. Evins, and G. W. Flinn.

Newbern—Letter.

Pisgah—C. C. Farrar.

Bethel—Funds.

Mt. Edon—J. McAuley, W. B. Cureton, and J. Kinerd.

Concord—J. M. Massey.

Providence—Funds.

Organized by the election of Rev. J. S. Ford Moderator, and A. B. Goodhue Clerk.

Adopted the order of business of the last session as the order for the present one. The Minutes of the last session of the Mulberry Association were presented and received.

Appointed Committee on Preaching—Deacons of the Union Church, W. M. McCullough, W. B. Cureton, and W. Griffin.

Invited visiting brethren to seats. Invitation accepted by Rev. J. A. Hill and W. J. Whatley.

Resolved to receive Rev. M. T. Sumner, Cor. Sec. B. D. M., S. B. C., in his official capacity.

Appointed the following Committees:

On Education—W. A. Bishop, W. N. Wyatt, and A. B. Goodhue.

On Domestic Missions—M. T. Sumner, N. Roberts, and H. C. Holston.

On Temperance—J. M. Heard, J. Kinerd, and S. C. Trammill.

On Sabbath Schools—R. Y. Woods, M. Stringfellow, and A. J. Kearse.

On Finance—W. N. Wyatt, J. H. Poole, J. Jones.

Appointed delegates to corresponding Associations, and requested the one first named in each list to write the letter of correspondence:

Alabama—J. B. Hawthorne, W. H. McIntosh, and M. T. Sumner.

Bigbee—S. R. Freeman, M. T. Sumner, and R. Y. Woods.

Tuscaloosa—W. A. Bishop, J. A. Hill, R. Y. Woods, and S. C. Trammill.

Pine Barren—J. B. Hawthorne.

Unity—J. M. Heard, J. S. Ford, and J. Kinerd.

Shelby—R. D. Faggard.

Bethel—M. T. Sumner.

Mulberry—J. S. Ford, W. A. Bishop, and S. C. Trammill.

Alabama Baptist State Convention—A. B. Goodhue, M. T. Sumner, W. H. McIntosh, J. B. Hawthorne, S. R. Freeman, and A. J. Battle.

Report of Treasurer referred to Auditing Committee.

Appointed Auditing Committee—J. McAuley, H. Crawford, G. W. Flinn.

Committee on Widows' and Orphans' Fund—S. S. Pool, S. C. Trammill.

Committee on Letters and Documents—I. Thomas, C. C. Farrar, J. W. May.

Appointed Treasurer—W. B. Lawson.

Appointed Committee to nominate some one to preach the Introductory Sermon at next session—S. Speed, B. G. Sims, and J. Evins.

Resolved, That when this body adjourns, it will adjourn to meet with the Mt. Edon Church.

Suspended the order of business, and raised, by subscription, $27 80 for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

Resolved, That the distribution of the Fund be left to the discretion of the Committee.

Adjourned, to meet for business on Monday at 9 A.M. Prayer by I. Thomas.

SUNDAY.

Preaching by Rev. M. T. Sumner and S. R. Freeman.

MONDAY, 9 A.M.

Prayer by Rev. M. T. Sumner.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions adopted.

Report of Committee on Domestic Missions adopted.

Report of Committee on Temperance adopted.

Report of Committee on Sunday Schools adopted.

Report of Committee on Education adopted.

Report of Committee on Letters and Documents adopted.

Report of Committee on the Religious Instruction of the Colored People adopted.

Report of Committee on Finance referred to Auditing Committee.

Appointed Committee on Obituaries—J. S. Ford, W. M. McCullough, and W. B. Cureton.

Report of Committee to nominate some one to preach the Introductory Sermon at next session adopted. Rev. J. B. Haythorne, principal; Rev. J. M. Heard, alternate.

WHEREAS, The Mt. Pleasant Church has sent up to this body the following query, viz., "The Word of God requires that we should be temperate in all things: what shall the churches regard as temperance in the use of ardent spirits?" therefore,

Resolved, That the following be given as our answer—viz: Total abstinence from them as a beverage, and the moderate use of them as a medicine.

Report of Auditing Committee adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of the body are due to the brethren and friends who have entertained us so bountifully during our session.

Appropriated $60 for Minutes, and the remainder of the Associational fund to the Clerk.

Resolved to allow the Chairman of Committee on Obituaries to report after adjournment.

Adjourned, to meet with the Mt. Edon Church on Saturday before the third Sunday in October, 1868.

J. S. FORD, *Moderator.*

A. B. GOODHUE, *Clerk.*

NOTE.—The Moderator appointed the following Chairmen of standing Committees after adjournment—viz:

On Education—A. B. Goodhue.
On Foreign Missions—R. Y. Woods.
On Temperance—S. C. Trammill.
On Sunday Schools—J. Kinerd.
On Domestic Missions—S. R. Freeman.
On the Religious Instruction of the Colored People—W. H. McIntosh.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Strange as the statement may appear to us, who have apparently become content to fold our hands and say, "We can't do any thing," yet the statement is none the less true that the work of missions among the heathen is still being sustained by our Southern Board. Man's extremity is God's opportunity; and in this we have only a repeated exhibition of the fact that what God would have to be done, he will find the means for accomplishing. Some portions of our country, and especially Kentucky, has only been aroused to life and activity by misfortune, and are doing more in this great work, as perhaps in all others, than at any time in past history; and had it not been for the depressed value of our currency, the Board would have been already out of debt, and prepared for vigorous aggressive movements in this great "labor of love." This is "the Lord's doings;" and more of them are still to be seen in that, while supporters are thus unexpectedly coming up to "the help of the Lord," the way is widening and obstructions speedily vanishing; and, every way considered, the prospects of our missionaries were, perhaps, never more flattering than at present. Brethren, will any of the reward bestowed upon the laborers in this great work fall to our share, in *That Day?* Respectfully submitted.

J. A. HILL, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Domestic Missions beg leave to make the following report:

During the past year the Board of Domestic Missions has had in service some 130 missionaries laboring in the several Southern States, occupying the towns, cities, and rural districts of our country. More than three thousand persons have been baptized, several churches organized, and many feeble bodies, scattered by the war, encouraged, and resuscitated, and brought into active coöperation with the Boards of the Convention. We have reason to be grateful to God for the work this Board has been enabled to accomplish. Its work has been limited only by the lack of means. Give it the means, and it will locate the standard of the Cross in every destitute section of our land. The financial condition of

the country has seriously affected the Treasury of the Board. The contributions have not been adequate to its wants, and it is in consequence embarrassed, and appeals to the churches for aid to meet its obligations to the missionaries, whose labors have already been rendered, and who are needing assistance.

The Board, requested at our last session to employ a missionary to labor within the bounds of the Association, succeeded in securing the services of Rev. R. Holman, who labored from the first of January last to the first of July. He was able to perform valuable service, in visiting many of the churches and preaching to them the doctrines of the Cross. He baptized forty-three colored persons.

The Committee would suggest that the Association endeavor to raise funds for the payment of his salary, and that the amount collected be forwarded to the Board of Domestic Missions, Marion, Ala.; care of Rev. M. T. Sumner, Corresponding Secretary. Respectfully submitted.

M. T. SUMNER, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee being unprepared to write a report, beg leave to submit the following extract as a report:

"DRINK, BUT REMEMBER.—If you think it is your duty to drink intoxicating liquors, by all means do so. On no account violate your conscientious convictions; but while you raise the cup to your lips, remember that this draught represents the bread of some starving brother; for the food of at least 6,000,000 persons is yearly grasped by the maltster and distiller, and its nourishment destroyed. Remember that so long as you are in health, these liquors are entirely unnecessary; 2,000 medical men have asserted it, and hundreds of thousands of teetotallers have proved it. Remember that most persons who act as you do, injure their health and shorten their lives by so doing. Remember that not drunkenness alone, but drinking fills our jails, our penitentiaries, our poor-houses, and our lunatic asylums—employs our coroners and our hangmen, and works mischief incalculable on all ranks and both sexes, of which no human institution takes any cognizance. Remember that drinking retards education, industry, sanitary reform, and every branch of political and social improvement. Remember that multitudes yearly die a drunkard's death, and go to meet a drunkard's doom. Remember that every year multitudes fall from your 'moderate' ranks, to recruit the wasted army of drunkards. Remember that every drunkard once tried to follow the example you set, and, in the trial, fell from his slippery ground into the whirlpool of intemperance. Remember that if you sanction the custom, you are answerable for its fruits. Remember that the weak and tempted ones look to you, and that under God it depends on you whether they be drunkards or sober men. Remember that "to him who knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is a sin;" and that there is a "woe for that man through whom the offense cometh to the little ones." Remember that you can not be neutral; and there will be a day when you will be unable to plead ignorance. Remember that all this weight of responsibility rests with you, as you raise that cup; then drink, *if you think it right:* but we envy not your conscience."

J. M. HEARD, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

No organization of the church can effect more real and permanent good than the Sabbath school. It has been justly denominated "the nursery of the church;" and to take this as the grand central idea, what an association of beautiful thoughts cluster around it! Here tender plants are taken and cultivated till prepared to be transferred to the garden of the Lord. Here our children are gathered in, and the Bible, the Book of God—the only book which opens up to the mind the hope of heaven, the prospect of an immortal life, the science of heaven, the only science which can answer the great question, "What shall I do to be saved?"—is placed in their hands, and from it they learn the source of all that is truly good, pure, and lovely—the source of all true joy and happiness. Here the tender mind learns that which should be the first lesson of life—to love God. Is it not strange, then, that there is not a Sabbath school wherever there is a church? and that this institution is not everywhere more highly appreciated? Why is darkness chosen rather than light—death rather than life?

Your Committee, however, is impressed with the belief that a deeper interest is felt in this subject at the present time than at any former period. There are not less than eighteen Sunday schools now in successful operation within the bounds of our Association; and we fondly cherish the hope that very soon every one of our churches will be blessed with a flourishing Sunday school. Respectfully submitted. R. Y. WOODS, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

The mind of man has always been directed to the grand object of its own improvement, and religious bodies like this have always given their warmest support and encouragement to the cause of education. The press and public journals have spoken most earnestly in its behalf, that the minds of all might be fully impressed with the great importance and absolute necessity of mental culture to the happiness and pros perity of all people. But after all, as a people, we do not perfectly appreciate its value. If all persons could feel its full force, more of our young people would be educated, even now in our poverty, than were even in the palmiest days of our prosperity, and we would soon be a greater people than ever; for true greatness consists not so much in pecuniary possessions as in mental and moral wealth.

The institutions of learning within the bounds of this Association (as well as others under the control of our denomination) are worthy of our confidence, and should call forth our warmest gratitude. The Judson is succeeding finely, under the present financial pressure. Its faculty is full and able, and it possesses every facility for female education. The Howard has a faculty equal to that of any institution in the land, and offers as many inducements to young men desiring an education as any other. Let us cherish and encourage these institutions as the hope of our people. Respectfully submitted.

W. A. BISHOP, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS.

Your Committee call the attention of the body to the request of the Mt. Edon Church, to hold our next session with her; to the query sent up by the Mt.

Pleasant Church; and the mention of the death of Rev. C. J. Crews, made in the letter of the Mt. Edon Church. I. THOMAS, *Chairman.*

ON THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF THE COLORED PEOPLE.

It is highly gratifying to your Committee to be able to state that the Baptist denomination, in all the States once slaveholding, fully recognize the duty of teaching the colored people the way to salvation made known to us in the Gospel of Christ. This is a duty which can not be ignored without fearful responsibilities, and which we have no disposition to disregard. Our ecclesiastical bodies and public journals have uttered but one sentiment on the subject, and that is to do our whole duty in the fear of God, relying on him and on him alone for wisdom to direct and grace to sustain us.

As to their going into separate and independent church organizations, this should be left to the wisdom and prayerful discretion of each church in its own capacity. We would simply do as we have ever done—acknowledge it to be our duty to give them all the religious instruction we can, and would urge the discharge of this important duty in the fear of God.

S. R. FREEMAN, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES.

Rev. C. J. Crews died of congestion of the brain on the 7th of September, 1867, at his residence in Perry county, Ala., in the 61st year of his age, leaving a wife and five children to mourn an irreparable loss. May the Lord graciously sustain and abundantly bless them in this sad bereavement!

Brother Crews was born in Tennessee, August 19th, 1807; removed to Alabama in 1831; professed religion and joined the Union Church in 1833, of which he remained a member until his death.

Previously to his ordination on the 15th of August, 1846, by a Presbytery composed of Elders John Dennis and E. J. Summers, he was an active, devoted member of the church, filling some time the office of Deacon.

Not having enjoyed the benefits of even a common English education, with a growing family to support by the labor of his own hands, (for, like many other good ministers, he received scarcely any aid from the churches he served so faithfully twenty-one years,) yet notwithstanding these almost insuperable difficulties, he was an efficient preacher, an energetic, successful pastor, and was wont to secure the coöperation of his churches. He preached Christ and gloried in the Cross. He sowed the precious word in tears and reaped in joy. He had been, at one time or another, the pastor of many of the churches of this Association: and perhaps none ever felt the loss of a pastor more deeply than those to whom he sustained this relation at the time of his death.

He was distinguished by his kindness and liberality to the poor and distressed —a wise and willing counsellor to neighbors, friends, and brethren. All who knew him—and his acquaintance was extensive—mourn the loss of a *good* and *useful* man. He was taken away when in the full tide of his usefulness; for never did he preach with more power, tenderness, and success, or labor more earnestly for the prosperity of his churches and the salvation of sinners, than

for a short time before his death. But his work is finished, and he has entered into that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

He was permitted to have a triumphant and happy death. The third day previous to his death he called the happiest of his life. He said he felt fully assured of his acceptance with God, and that though he should walk through the valley of the shadow of death, he would fear no evil. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them."

JOHN S. FORD, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

Minute Fund	$54 50
Associational Fund	22 00
Widows' and Orphans' Fund	27 60
Domestic Missions	26 90
Total	$131 00

W. N. WYATT, *Chairman.*

The above account is correct.

J. McAULEY, *Chairman Auditing Committee.*

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	PASTORS.	Rece'd by baptism.	Received by letter.	Dismissed by letter.	Excommunicated.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total in fellowship.	Associational fund.	Minute fund.	Total.
BETHEL	Bibb	R. D. Faggard	....	1	....	....	1	....	52	$ 50	$ 50	$ 1 00
CONCORD	Perry	J. S. Ford	....	....	....	2	....	4	180	1 00	4 00	5 00
HOPEWELL	Perry	S. R. Freeman	....	....	....	....	....	....	362	10 00	.....	10 00
MT. PLEASANT	Perry	J. S. Ford	3	2	....	....	....	....	61	.....	2 00	2 00
MT. EDON	Perry	C. J. Crews	12	9	1	....	....	1	111	1 00	3 00	4 00
PISGAH	Perry	J. W. Melton	19	3	....	....	....	7	214	2 00	3 00	5 00
MACEDONIA	Hale	W. O. Stevens	2	....	5	....	1	....	30	.....	1 00	1 00
NEWHOPE	Hale	F. M. Holson	....	3	1	4	....	....	46	.....	1 00	1 00
HEPSIBAH	Perry	H. O. Haggard	....	1	20	2	1	2	81	2 00	3 00	5 00
SHILOH	Perry	H. O. Haggard	3	1	3	....	....	2	91	.....	2 00	2 00
PLEASANT HILL	Hale	Carter Tubb	9	4	7	2	....	....	35	1 00	1 50	2 00
MEDLINE	Perry	J. M. Heard	11	4	6	9	9	1	88	.....	2 00	2 00
MT. PLEASANT	Hale	J. A. Hill	....	3	7	....	....	2	78	.....	3 00	3 00
UNION	Hale	.....	3	1	6	....	1	....	64	2 00	2 00	4 00
SILOAM	Perry	W. H. McIntosh	47	15	15	....	2	2	888	4 00	6 00	10 00
NEWBERN	Hale	S. R. Freeman	54	2	10	1	....	....	214	.....	.....	.....
MT. ZION	Bibb	Richard Wood	5	....	1	....	....	3	51	.....	3 00	3 00
MT. HEBRON	Hale	J. A. Hill	....	1	....	....	....	1	17	.....	2 00	2 00
SARDIS	Perry	Carter Tubb	....	....	3	....	....	....	94	1 00	2 00	3 00
FELLOWSHIP	Perry	J. A. Hill	....	....	....	....	....	....	160	1 50	3 00	4 50
PINE FLAT	Perry	C. J. Crews	1	....	2	....	1	....	43	1 00	3 00	4 00
PROVIDENCE	Perry	J. S. Ford	5	4	....	....	....	1	.....	.....	2 50	2 50
OCMULGEE	.....	J. S. Ford	1	3	....	....	....	....	.....	1 00	2 00	3 00